Minutes of the OIBC-4 Plenary Meeting held on 30 July 2026 in Microsoft Teams

Participants

The following participants attended the meeting:

Name	Organisation
Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng	Chair, Convener, UNECA,
Edward Kilawe	Convener, FAO
Yuka Irie	FAO
Matthias Naab	UNDP
Charles Tamou	UNDP
Chiagozie Udeh	UNFPA
Daniel Fisher	UNEP
Mekalia Paulos	UNECA
Adewumi Ibukun	UNESCO
Marian Diop Kane	WMO

Mathewos Tulu	UNDRR
Simon Gilby	UNOSD
Linus Mofor	UNICEF
Kindie Alamneh	OIBC4-Secretariat, FAO
Omar Zemrag	OIBC4-Secretariat, UNDP
Catherine Mwangi	OIBC-4 Secretariat, UNEP

Absent with apologies

Ros Mwebaza, Convener, UNEP
Daisy Mukarakate, UNDP
Margaret Oduk, UNEP

Outcome of the Conveners Meeting

A Preliminary Meeting was held by the Co-Conveners of OIBC-4 to deliberate on the agenda items for the plenary session. The discussion focused on strengthening OIBC-4's effectiveness, particularly in supporting COP32 preparations, responding to member-state requests such as the DRC request on the GCF proposal, improving accountability for outstanding actions, and addressing resource mobilisation and reporting challenges. Members agreed that stronger follow-up mechanisms and clearer financing arrangements are necessary to accelerate implementation of the group's commitments.

Agenda

1. Updates on COP32 preparation
2. Debrief on meeting between OIBC-4 Co-Conveners and the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
3. Updates on outstanding action items
4. Resource mobilisation issues
5. Any Other Business (AOB)

Discussions and Resolutions of the Plenary Meeting

Agenda Item 1. COP32 Preparations and Engagement with Ethiopia

Cosmas Ochieng (UNECA) briefed members on developments regarding preparations for COP32 in Ethiopia.

a) Main updates

- The UNFCCC auditing mission had recently completed a week-long assessment visit to Ethiopia.
- Following the conclusion of national elections, preparations by the Government of Ethiopia had accelerated significantly.
- Ethiopia is actively conducting stakeholder engagement and "listening sessions" to gather ideas and build coalitions around COP32 priorities.

The Government is seeking input on:

- Potential COP agenda priorities.
- Presidency initiatives.
- Strategic partnerships.
- Post-COP implementation opportunities.

b) UN System Coordination

Cosmas went further to inform the meeting that:

- The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia will organise a half-day retreat.
- The retreat will be co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and UNECA Executive Secretary at a date to be communicated.
- The objective is to develop a coordinated "One UN Offer" to the Government of Ethiopia on COP32 support.
- The process aims to reduce fragmentation and improve coherence in UN engagement.

c) Non-State Actors Listening Session

Members were informed of a proposed global stakeholder engagement event scheduled for October 2026 involving:

- Private sector
- Civil society
- Youth organizations
- Media and influencers
- Academia and think tanks

The event will support coalition-building and the co-design of potential COP32 Presidency Initiatives.

d) Clarification on UN Coordination Architecture

Matthias Naab raised concerns about the relationship between:

- UN Country Team engagement in Ethiopia;
- Regional support structures;
- OIBC-4 interventions; and
- UNECA's coordination role for COP32.

Members stressed the importance of avoiding parallel processes while maintaining visibility of system-wide support. They also reckoned the need to ensure agency-specific support aligns with broader UN coordination mechanisms.

Cosmas confirmed that the planned UN retreat would address coordination challenges and establish a unified engagement framework.

Agenda Item 2. Engagement with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)

Cosmas informed members of a recent meeting held between himself, the AGN Chair Dr Antwi and Ms Rose Mwebaza, Co-Convener from UNEP.

Key outcomes of the meeting were stated as below:

- OIBC-4 reaffirmed its willingness to support AGN preparations for COP31 and COP32.
- AGN was requested to submit the following:
    - A two-year priority workplan.
    - Indicative budget requirements.
- The information will enable OIBC-4 agencies to identify:
    - Existing support;
    - Funding gaps;
    - Opportunities for coordinated assistance.

Challenges Identified

- AGN Office had not yet submitted the requested workplan and budget despite several reminders.
- Members agreed that a follow-up communication should be sent to the AGN's office for their action.

Transparency-related concerns

Matthias Naab emphasised the need for transparency regarding agency contributions to AGN support activities.

The meeting agreed that the AGN workplan and budget would help identify:

- Which agencies are already providing support;
- Potential duplication;
- Resource gaps requiring collective action.

Agenda Item 3. Updates on outstanding action points

a) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Request

The meeting reviewed progress on an earlier request from the DRC concerning the capacity-building support in the establishment of a carbon-credit research and support mechanism and the Development of a GCF-related project proposal

The meeting was of the view that progress had been slower than anticipated. Cosmas stated that the Members of the Task Force had not yet delivered any recommendations to the Conveners. He mentioned that staff transitions within UNECA contributed to delays.

Agreed Approach

- UNECA will nominate a replacement focal point following staff changes.
- Existing task team members to remain engaged.
- The task team will meet within one week.

The team will:

- Review documentation.
- Define support requirements.
- Identify implementation constraints.
- Report back to the plenary.

b) Climate-Water-Energy-Food (WEFE) Nexus Action Plan

The meeting reviewed progress on the WEFE Nexus Action Plan.

Simon Gilby (UNOSD) reported that:

- Staff transitions and health-related absences had affected continuity. He stated that UNOSD remains committed to the initiative. However, he highlighted that significant resource constraints currently limit implementation during 2026. He informed the meeting that planning for 2027 implementation is underway.

The Chair emphasised that:

- Finalisation of the action plan is a collective responsibility.
- Team membership should be reviewed and updated where necessary.
- Agencies may nominate replacement representatives if earlier focal points are no longer available.
- He requested the team to meet and review the task.
- Once it is ready, the Action Plan will be used by the Resident Coordinators.

b) El Niño Preparedness Mapping

The Secretariat reported limited responses to the template circulated to map agency support related to El Niño preparedness and response.

The information is required to:

- Support reporting to Resident Coordinators.
- Inform Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) discussions.
- Improve visibility of agency interventions at the country level.

Members noted that some agencies were still gathering information from country offices. The deadline was extended until mid-August to allow agencies additional time to submit inputs.

c) Mid-Year Reporting to the RCP Secretariat

The Secretariat informed members that:

- Mid-year reporting submissions remained outstanding.
- Previous requests had not generated sufficient responses.
- Reporting is essential to demonstrate OIBC-4 achievements and results.

Members agreed that an additional reminder be sent out urging Agencies to provide outstanding reports by mid-August 2026. The Chair requested that progress reporting remains a standing agenda item until compliance improves.

Agenda Item 4. Resource Mobilisation

The Co-Conveners noted growing challenges regarding:

- Funding.
- Agency contributions towards the pooled funding.
- Implementation resources.
- Support to task teams and country ad hoc requests.

The Chair informed the meeting that the next meeting of the plenary will comprise a dedicated discussion on OIBC-4 resourcing

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business (AOB)

Potential OIBC-4 COP32 Presidency Initiative

Cosmas proposed exploring whether OIBC-4 could collectively develop and promote a COP32 Presidency Initiative.

Matthias Naab advised that any initiative should complement, rather than duplicate, existing UN Country Team and UNECA efforts. He mentioned that OIBC-4 contributions should remain aligned with broader UN coordination mechanisms. Cosmas mentioned that the proposal will be discussed further in future meetings

Meeting Conclusions

The plenary recognised OIBC-4 as one of the strongest performing Issue-Based Coalitions but emphasised the need to improve implementation speed, reporting compliance, and follow-through on commitments to member states. Members reaffirmed their commitment to coordinated support for COP32 preparations, AGN engagement, the DRC request, and priority climate-related initiatives across Africa.

Meeting adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 15:53 EAT.

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party	Target date
Organise and participate in UN system retreat on coordinated COP32 engagement	UNECA, UNCT Ethiopia and participating agencies	TBA
Share concept note and programme for the non-state actor listening session to be convened in October 2026	UNECA/COP32 support team	As soon as available
Follow up with AGN Chair for submission of workplan and indicative budget	Secretariat and Co-Conveners	Immediate
Circulate AGN workplan and funding template once received	Secretariat	Upon receipt of the work plan
Reconstitute DRC Task Team following staff changes	UNECA and task team members	Within one week
Convene DRC Task Team meeting and provide recommendations to the Conveners	The new DRC Task Team	Within one week
Develop Climate-Water-Energy-Food Nexus Action Plan	UNOSD, UNESCO, UNECA, UNU and additional OIBC-4 members	Ongoing
Complete El Niño preparedness mapping template	All agencies	Mid-August 2026
Submit outstanding mid-year reports to RCP Secretariat	All agencies	Mid-August 2026
Secretariat to send weekly reminders on reporting obligations	Secretariat	Until submissions are completed
Organise a session on OIBC-4 Financial Resources	Co-Conveners and Secretariat	Next plenary meeting

Action Item	Responsible Party	Target date
Explore possible OIBC-4 COP32 Presidency Initiative proposal	Cosmas/Conveners	For future discussion